



Indiana Crop & Weather Report

United States Dept of Agriculture

Indiana Agricultural
Statistics Service

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CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 26

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

Open weather and drier soil conditions finally arrived this spring allowing farmers the best week thus far this season to accomplish some fieldwork. By mid-week most farmers were in their fields tilling soils, along with planting corn and soybeans, according to the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Corn and soybean planting is about 3 weeks behind the average pace. Wet spots remain in many fields around the state. Farmers were working long hours trying to catch up from the delayed planting this season.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.3 **days suitable for fieldwork**. Forty-three percent of the **corn** acreage is planted compared with 100 percent last year and 96 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 54 percent of the corn acreage is planted in the north, 39 percent in the central regions and 29 percent in the south. Thirteen percent of the corn acreage has **emerged** compared with 99 percent a year earlier. Emerged corn is yellow in color. Nineteen percent of the intended **soybean** acreage is planted compared with 96 percent a year ago and 80 percent for the average. By area, 27 percent of the soybean acreage is planted in the north, 18 percent in the central regions and 8 percent in the south. Four percent of the soybean acreage has **emerged** compared with 85 percent a year earlier.

Other activities during the week were working on equipment, spraying, moving grain to market, hauling manure, mowing roadsides and taking care of livestock.

Seventy-eight percent of the winter wheat is **headed** compared with 98 percent last year and 85 percent for the average. Winter wheat **condition** is rated 57 percent good to excellent, same as last week, but below the 65 percent a year ago at this time. First cutting of **alfalfa** hay is 14 percent complete compared with 27 percent for both last year and the 5-year average. Transplanting of **tobacco** is 10 percent complete compared with 30 percent last year and 27 percent for the average.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 19 percent excellent, 61 percent good, 17 percent fair, 2 percent poor, and 1 percent very poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Planted	43	13	100	96
Corn Emerged	13	7	99	NA
Soybeans Planted	19	4	96	80
Soybeans Emerged	4	2	85	NA
Winter Wheat Headed	78	50	98	85
Tobacco Plants Set	10	1	30	27
Alfalfa First Cutting	14	NA	27	27

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	5	18	48	27	2
Pasture	1	2	17	61	19
Winter Wheat 2002	2	9	32	48	9

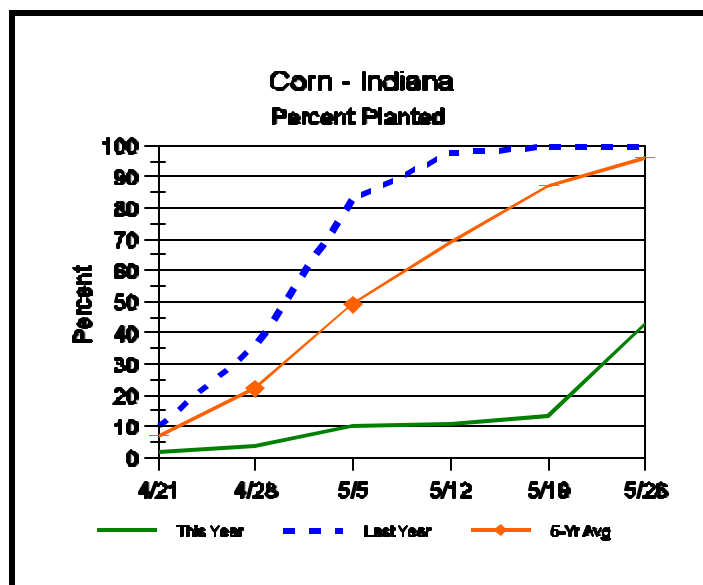
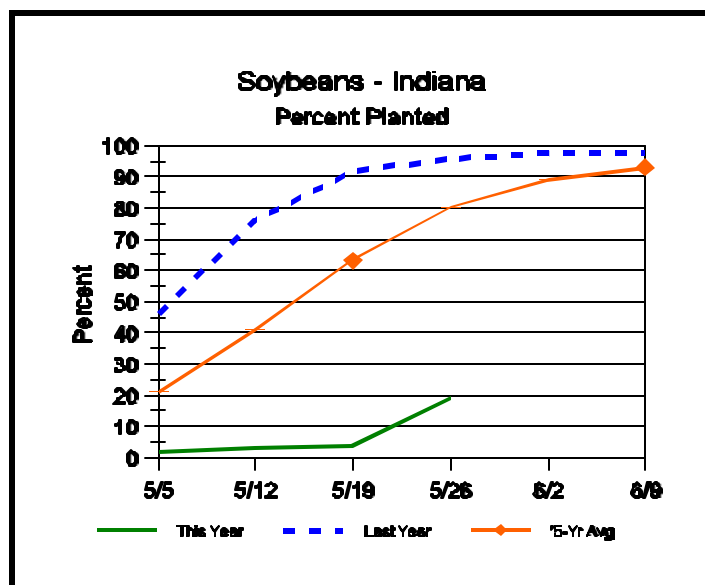
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	0	0	2
Short	0	0	9
Adequate	53	15	65
Surplus	47	85	24
Subsoil			
Very Short	0	0	7
Short	0	0	23
Adequate	53	25	64
Surplus	47	75	6
Days Suitable	4.3	0.4	1.7

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Agronomic Reasons Not to Switch From Corn to Soybeans

Introduction:

Planting delays always involve difficult decisions, and one of the most involved is whether (or when) to switch intended corn acres to soybean. Factors include relative yield expectations, anticipated prices, livestock feed requirements, specialty production contracts, planting rate capabilities, seed supplies, and agronomic considerations. The latter will be discussed in this article as one way to assist producers in making that difficult decision. Our bias is reflected in the title; namely, most farmers shouldn't switch from corn to soybean until at least the end of May if the following agronomic factors are important to them:

1. Soybean Yield Loss in 2002.

For those farmers who are currently involved in a 50% corn, 50% soybean sequence, our long-term data suggest a yield reduction for soybeans after soybeans averaging 10%, and possibly as high as 20% in high stress years, relative to soybeans after corn. Late planting of soybeans doesn't usually reduce stress incidence, so factor in at least a 10% yield loss for fields where soybean follows soybean.

2. Soybean Yield Loss in 2003.

If conventional 50/50 farmers switch intended corn acreage to soybeans in 2002, then they will also experience a yield loss should they want to get back to the 50/50 cropping scheme in 2003. Thus, a 1000 acre farmer who plants 700 acres of soybeans, but only 300 acres of corn in 2002, will necessarily plant 200 of the 500 acres of soybeans in 2003 into previous crop soybean (if the 50% soybean base is resumed in 2003). Note that in this scenario, only 300 of the 500 soybean acres in 2003 would be planted following corn. In addition, the 200 acres of corn in 2004 after two years of successive soybean will experience no yield benefit from following two soybean crops versus one soybean crop.

3. Increased Risk of Soybean Disease.

Multiple years of soybean encourages more soil-borne diseases like soybean cyst nematode (SCN), sudden death syndrome, and white mold. The risk associated with soybean after soybean is not worth taking if a farmer already has significant SCN populations and seed of varieties with the appropriate resistance are not available. Farmers are advised not to proceed with second year soybean using a susceptible variety if they aren't confident about the lack of (or extent of) SCN presence in particular fields. Nematode numbers may jump dramatically with a susceptible variety, and soybean yields may be negatively affected for years. Was the soil tested for SCN levels in 2001? If not, plan rotation changes with caution. Decisions on short-term economics may compromise income from soybean crops in future years.

4. Weed Control.

If residual herbicides specific to corn were applied last fall or this spring, then there is no alternative but to plant corn. Since the majority of the soybeans are Roundup Ready TM varieties, the risks of potential weed resistance to glyphosate only increase when glyphosate is the only herbicide used in successive years.

5. Yield Levels of Available Varieties.

The potential yields of any crop are limited by their inherent genetic capabilities. Obtaining seed of high yielding soybean varieties could be a challenge at this late date. The corn yield loss of 1 bu/acre/day of delayed planting (in May) of the elite hybrid still in the machinery shed will, in many cases, be a smaller economic sacrifice than planting potentially mediocre yielding soybean varieties (which are also losing 0.25 to 0.4 bu/acre/day in yield potential after May 20).

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday May 26, 2002

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data							Accumulation				
	Air Temperature				Precip.		Avg 4 in Soil Temp	April 1, 2002 thru May 26, 2002				
								Precipitation			GDD Base 50°F	
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
Northwest (1)												
Valparaiso_AP_I	75	30	50	-13	0.43	2	58	9.91	+2.74	23	302	-39
Wanatah	77	28	51	-11	0.47	2		10.29	+3.44	25	250	-47
Wheatfield	78	29	51	-11	0.39	2		8.44	+1.78	24	290	-30
Winamac	76	32	52	-12	0.51	3	59	8.88	+2.28	29	276	-87
North Central(2)												
Chalmers_5W	80	32	53	-12	0.18	2	58	8.01	+1.09	28	297	-122
Plymouth	76	30	51	-13	0.33	3		10.11	+3.09	28	250	-133
South_Bend	75	30	51	-12	0.95	3		8.84	+2.36	28	280	-41
Young_America	78	34	54	-10	0.66	3		8.15	+1.56	25	344	-15
Northeast (3)												
Columbia_City	76	33	52	-10	0.34	3	54	9.31	+2.77	26	263	-34
Fort_Wayne	77	37	54	-9	1.86	2		8.96	+2.72	24	348	+9
West Central (4)												
Greencastle	80	31	54	-12	1.07	3	58	14.03	+6.33	25	363	-98
Perrysville	78	33	55	-10	0.12	4		12.73	+5.48	28	373	-30
Terre_Haute_AFB	80	34	57	-8	0.86	3		21.06	+13.36	28	488	+31
W_Lafayette_6NW	78	30	54	-10	0.42	4	57	12.23	+5.23	28	350	-15
Central (5)												
Brookville	82	31	54	-10	0.79	3	57	13.85	+6.05	23	433	+63
Eagle_Creek_AP	80	35	56	-10	0.38	3		11.57	+4.49	25	446	+0
Greenfield	79	34	55	-10	0.71	3		13.05	+5.37	30	396	-7
Indianapolis_AP	81	36	57	-9	0.47	3		12.12	+5.04	23	486	+40
Indianapolis_SE	80	35	55	-10	0.23	2		13.18	+5.67	21	407	-20
Tipton_Ag	77	33	53	-11	0.31	2		10.49	+3.37	27	327	-2
East Central (6)												
Farmland	78	32	53	-9	0.51	2	54	10.78	+4.06	30	345	+27
New_Castle	82	30	51	-12	0.20	2		12.06	+4.27	23	287	-40
Southwest (7)												
Evansville	83	39	60	-8	0.01	1	57	13.72	+5.66	24	664	+68
Freelandville	81	36	58	-8	1.02	1		15.06	+6.91	22	501	+16
Shoals	83	34	57	-9	0.30	2		15.37	+6.80	23	468	-1
Stendal	81	37	58	-9	0.44	1		16.50	+7.67	22	571	+36
Vincennes_5NE	80	36	58	-9	0.41	2		15.72	+7.57	21	538	+53
South Central(8)												
Spencer_Ag	80	33	54	-10	0.65	3	57	15.68	+7.60	29	383	-25
Tell_City	85	41	62	-6	0.00	0		13.46	+4.58	18	710	+159
Southeast (9)												
Milan_5NE	79	29	52	-12	0.40	2		16.46	+8.66	28	367	-3
Scottsburg	82	32	56	-10	0.52	2		15.54	+7.57	25	484	-5

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Agronomic Reasons Not to Switch From Corn to Soybean (Continued)

Indeed, though the odds diminish as the calendar advances, yields in the 130 to 200 bushel per acre range are still theoretically possible for corn planted after May 20.

6. Nutrient Efficiency.

If nitrogen (N) fertilizer for corn was already applied, every attempt should be made to plant corn to avoid economic loss (N fertilizer and application costs) as well as inefficient nutrient utilization. Although soybeans can utilize available N from the fertilizer source (and, in the process, fix less of its own N via the nodules) there is little benefit to the soybean crop from doing so. Environmentally, corn roots will probably capture more of the mineralized N from the N fertilizer source than soybean roots will.

7. Reductions in Soil Quality.

Three factors of soil quality are threatened when the proportion of soybeans in rotation increases. One is the reduction in soil organic matter since less bio-mass is returned compared to grain corn. The second is poorer soil structural stability (less stable aggregates) because soybean root and shoot material decomposes so much faster than corn, and has historically not provided the same level of

temporary soil "bonds". Third, soil residue cover persisting after soybean is much less than after corn. Thus, the soil erosion potential in the spring after 2 years of soybean production is higher than that after a corn-soybean rotation. An interesting footnote is that 2-year old corn residue makes up approximately 50% of the residue weight on the soil surface in the spring after no-till soybean follows grain corn. Those who can least "afford" to plant soybean after soybean are those on sloping soils with low organic matter levels. Future crop yield potential is sacrificed when soil is lost.

Summary:

All seven of these agronomic factors should be considered before the decision is made to switch intended corn acres to soybean in May. If planting delays continue past early June, there are more economic reasons to switch corn acreage to soybean. The actual date in June when that occurs varies with the remaining season length in different areas of the state. However, in May at least, there are at least seven agronomic reasons in favor of retaining corn.

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